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Voted, That the letter of the Standing Committee to Mr. Stone be accepted, as embodying the views of the Society; and that a copy of the same be sent to him by the Librarian.

Mr. ELLIS reported the success of a commission intrusted to him some few years ago, relating to certain Belknap papers written between the years 1779 and 1798; and expressed the opinion, that these papers would ultimately come into the possession of this Society, and probably at no very distant period.

AUGUST MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting was held this day, Thursday, Aug. 8, at noon. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, the Hon. NATHAN APPLETON was chosen to preside.

In the absence of the Librarian, the Recording Secretary announced donations from the Chicago Historical Society; Connecticut Historical Society; Massachusetts Colonization Society; Mercantile-Library Association of New York; Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries; Miss Frances Clark; Dean Dudley, Esq.; J. N. Carrigan, Esq.; Hon. Charles T. Russell; Rev. E. M. Stone; and from Messrs. Everett, Green, Robbins (C.), Sibley, Webb, Wheatland, and Whitney, of the Society.

The Cabinet-keeper presented a half-crown stamp as a gift to the cabinet, from T. B. Lawrence, Esq.

Mr. SOMERBY, a Corresponding Member, communicated the following extracts which he had copied from

the log-book of the ship "Preston," preserved in the Admiralty Office in London, relating to incidents which occurred at and near the period of the battle of Bunker Hill:—

The "Preston's" Journal in Boston Harbor.

Moderate and fair. At seven, P.M., sent the boats, manned and armed, to the "Boyne," to wait for orders. At two, A.M., they returned, after having transported a number of troops up Cambridge River.

1775.
APRIL.
Wednesday, 19.
W. S. W.

Fresh gales and cloudy. At half-past four, P.M., made the signal for all lieutenants. At half-past five, hoisted a red flag at the main-topmast-head, and fired a gun, as a signal for all the marines in the fleet to repair on board the "Somerset." All the boats employed in transporting the troops who had been out over to Boston, and carrying the marines and third brigade from thence over to Charlestown. At eleven, P.M., the "Falcon's" boat brought on board two of the rebel party. A.M., heard the king's troops engaging the rebels. At noon, made the signal for all boats manned and armed to attend on board the flag.

Thursday, 20.
S. W.

W'y.

S. W.

W'y.

Moderate and cloudy. Sent the boats to bring back the marines and third brigade from Charlestown to Boston and the ships. A.M., at six, unmoored and warped a cable's-length further to the northward, where we moored again, and clapped a spring on both cables. A.M., the gunboat brought four prisoners from the main guard, who were taken in the late skirmish between the king's troops and the rebels.

Friday, 21.
W'y.

Light wind. At eight, P.M., sent a boat up the Mystic River to reconnoitre.

Tuesday, 25.
N. W'y.

Moderate and fair. Heard several volleys of small arms fired during the night.

MAY.
Wednesday, 16.
S. W.
N. W.
Saturday, 27.
S'y.

Moderate and fair. Painters employed on board. At two, P.M., saw a number of rebels on Noddle's Island destroying the hay; and made the signal for landing the marines, and sent the "Diana" schooner round to cut off their retreat. She went as far as there was water; but the marines drove them off the island. The rebels kept a constant fire on the "Diana" from Hog Island and the main, which she returned with great spirit. At seven, she got all the boats ahead to tow her. The rebels kept a constant fire on the boats;

Calm.

S'y.

which at last became so warm, they were ordered to cast off. Unfortunately for her, a breeze sprung up, which set her in upon the rebels' shore. Notwithstanding all these circumstances, she was defended with great spirit until the tide quitted her. She fell on her beam-ends, so that it was impossible any longer to stand the deck.

Sunday, 28.
S'y.

Moderate and fair. The officers and people retreated to the "Somerset" tender, which lay there for that purpose. At three, A.M., the tide having left her quite dry, the rebels boarded, plundered, and set her on fire, but not without a few grape-shot from the tender who was yet close by. The marines took post on the island for that night, and, when all was over, were re-enforced with two hundred men from the garrison. The tender, after seeing no possibility of saving the "Diana," slipped, and came up the harbor. At twelve, the "Cerberus's" quarter-deck guns were sent to the island; and, at six, two field-pieces from the garrison. They fired several times at the rebels on the continent.

Calm.

Monday, 29.
S. W.

Light airs, and fair. Made the signal for all boats, and sent them to take the marines off Noddle's Island.

Wednesday, 31.
S'y.

Light airs. P.M., a number of rebels came, and set fire to a dwelling-house on Noddle's Island; fired several shots to prevent their destroying our stores. A.M., made the signal for all boats manned and armed; with which, and a party of marines, we brought away all our stores, except the casks, staves, &c.

JUNE.

Thursday, 1.
N. W.

Fresh breezes, and clear. Employed in securing the stores taken from the island. A.M., the rebels burnt the storehouse, and with it sixty butts, forty puncheons, thirty-six hogsheads, and six hundred butt and three hundred puncheon staves, with four hundred iron hoops.

Saturday, 3.
W'y.

Light airs, and fair. Fired several times at the rebels, to prevent their intrenching on the island.

Saturday, 17.
S'y.

Light airs, and calm. A.M., sent for the "Cerberus's" quarter-deck guns, and surveyed her ammunition. At four, A.M., we observed the rebels were intrenching upon a hill which commanded Boston. The "Lively" and "Glasgow" kept firing upon their works, as also the North Battery, with shot and shell; which lasted till noon, when we made the signal for all boats manned and armed.

West.

Sunday, 18.
W'y.

Light airs, and calm. At one, P.M., the boats of the men-of-war and transports repaired to the different wharves to embark the troops, and ferry them over; which was done on the west side Mystic River.

S'y.

The "Lively," "Glasgow," "Falcon," the "Symmetry" transport-

sloop, and an armed sloop, kept a continual fire upon the rebels, to assist the landing. At three, the troops being formed, advanced towards the rebels' works; which, after sustaining a prodigious loss of officers and men, got possession of. Boats employed bringing back the wounded officers and soldiers. N'y.

Several cannon-shots exchanged between the rebels at Roxbury and our lines. SEPTEMBER. Sunday, 17. S'y.

Do. do.

18.

Do. do.

S'y.

19.

This twenty-four hours, many guns have been fired from Charlestown Neck, &c. 22.

The rebels landed on Governor's Island, and set fire to a dwelling-house, &c. 26.

Heard several guns fired at Castle William; sent the gunboat and cutter toward the castle. At two, P.M., the gunboat returned. Rowed guard as usual. OCTOBER 20.

Dr. HOLMES gave a verbal account of a visit recently made by him, while at Salem, to an old house on Witch Hill, which tradition says was built of timber originally used in the frame of the first house of public worship erected at Salem. Having quoted the following note in Palfrey's "History of New England," vol. i. p. 187,— "We collect here and there a hint as to the construction of the houses. A storm on the 4th of February 'caused much daubing of our houses to fall down' ('Mourt,' 30); this was the clay, or other earth, which filled the chinks between the logs,"—Dr. Holmes exhibited a fragment of the plastering which he had found at the house in question, made of clay and straw; and observed, that it was undoubtedly a specimen of the "daubing" used by the first settlers of New England. He then offered a few remarks on the architecture of the Pilgrims; which led to an animated conversation, in which several of the members participated.

Dr. WEBB read extracts from the "Newport Mercury" of 1796, with a view especially of showing the laboriousness of the newspaper editors of that day, and the variety of information they were able to procure from a comparatively limited field.

Mr. LIVERMORE called attention to some traditions concerning Oliver Cromwell. One of these — the command to his soldiers to "trust in the Lord, and keep the powder dry" — has lately been attributed, though, he believed, without any foundation, to our own Captain Miles Standish. When and where the words were first used, no contemporary or late writer had stated. Another tradition had reference to the use of the Bible in Cromwell's army. It has often been asserted, and generally believed, that every soldier carried with him, during the civil wars, a copy of the Bible. Bibliographers have in vain endeavored to ascertain what particular edition of the Bible was printed for this purpose. It is not unusual to see on the catalogues of London booksellers some edition, printed between the years 1643 and 1658, advertised as Cromwell's "Soldier's Bible," and offered at a high price. It had, however, lately been settled, by the accidental discovery of a little pamphlet of sixteen pages, that all the conjectures of bibliographers had been incorrect, and that, instead of the Bible, it was a *biblical tract*, prepared for the purpose, which the army used. Only two copies of this curious little work are now known to be extant. One of these is in the library presented to the British Museum by George III. : the other is in the possession of Mr. Livermore, who exhibited it to the Society. The titlepage is as follows : viz., —

“The Souldiers Pocket Bible ; containing the most (if not all) those places contained in holy Scripture which doe shew the qualifications of his inner man, that is a fit Souldier to fight the Lords Battels, both before he fight, in the fight, and after the fight : which Scriptures are reduced to severall heads, and fitly applyed to the souldiers severall occasions, and so may supply the want of the whole Bible, which a souldier cannot conveniently carry about him ; and may bee also useful for any Christian to meditate upon now in this miserable time of warre.

“*Imprimatur*, Edm. Calamy.

“Jos. 18. — ‘This Book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth ; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou maist observe to doe according to all that is written therein : for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and have good successe.’

“Printed at London by G. B. and R. W. for G. C., 1643.”

SEPTEMBER MEETING.

The Society held their stated monthly meeting this day, Thursday, Sept. 13, at twelve o'clock, m. ; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the American Antiquarian Society ; Essex Institute ; New-York State Agricultural Society ; Smithsonian Institution ; George Livermore, Esq., as executor of Thomas Dowse ; Hon. S. H. Walley ; Mrs. William T. Harris ; Winthrop Sargent, Esq. ; John Bartlett, Esq. ; Mrs. Sarah B. Putnam ; Miss Mary E. Pettes ; Rev. E. M. Stone ; T. Bigelow Lawrence, Esq. ; Miss Ann D. Bartlett ; D. C. Gilman, Esq. ; Alfred Poor, Esq. ; Hon. J. G. Palfrey ; William Durrant Cooper, Esq., of London ; Rev. E. A. Park, D.D. ; Hon. Theron Metcalf ; George